GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6585
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
NEGLIGENCE OF DOCTORS
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that because of cutting a nerve on the leg of a girl aged 6 years old then by a railway doctor on June 26, 1969 in Howrah`s Eastern Railway Orthopaedic Hospital, the girl is still languishing in thehospital for 34 years as has been brought out in the news captioned `Girl languishes in hospital for 34 years` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 13, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and taken any steps to restore her life and punish the guilty; (

(c) if so, the details thereof; and (

(d) the compensation paid to the family of the girl to ensure that the girl and the family gets proper monetary relief?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

(a) to (d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6585 BY SH SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI TO BE ANSWERED ON 9.5.2002 REGARDING NEGLIGENCE OF DOCTORS.

(a) to (d) A girl aged approximately 6 years was operated for an abscess in her hip under general anesthesia on 29.6.69 (not on 26.6.69 as mentioned in the question) . As because, she was a child, general anaesthesia was preferred to make her still during the operation. Unfortunately she developed cardiac arrest during anaesthesia.

A valiant effort was made by doctors and staff to revive her. Her life could be saved but unfortunately she developed irreversible brain damage due to non supply of oxygen to brain during the vital period of cardiac arrest leading to some complications i.e. mental retardation, weakness of all four limbs and slurred speech.

The complication she developed was not due to cutting of nerves by the surgeon as alleged but a complication of anaesthesia. There was no negligence on the part of the surgeon or the anaesthetist. Both the surgeon and the anaesthetist were qualified and experienced in their respective fields. This is a rare but known complication of general anaesthesia.

The girl has been in the hospital ever since and is being looked after by the hospital authorities with sympathy and compassion. Rehabilitation measures were initiated but there was no significant improvement. Efforts were made to send her to National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped, Bonhooghly, Kolkata, for further management however the relatives were against such a move.

The matter was enquired into and it was found that as a complication of general anaesthesia, the child developed cardiac arrest which is a rare but a known complication. There was no negligence on the part of the surgeon or the anaesthetist and no nerve was cut as alleged.

Steps have been taken to rehabilitate her but there was no significant improvement in her condition

As there was no negligence, no action was taken against the surgeon or the anaesthetist. Unfortunately both of them have since passed away.

No monetary compensation has been made to the family nor any such claim preferred. The patient is still admitted to the hospital and getting all possible care and attention from the hospital authorities.